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27 MAR 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR : Executive Assistant to the Deputy Director

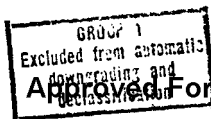
SUBJECT : Comments on Mr. Robert Mayo's Letter
to Mr. Helms dated 22 March 1969,

1. Mr. Mayo's letter of 22 March to the Director restates
the Bureau of the Budget's opposition to

The basic thrust of the letter and its attachment is aimed at
intelligence needs for the system. As other offices are more competent
to comment on these issues, this memorandum will be confined to
addressing several program related matters raised by Mr. Mayo. The
cost data quoted in the attachment to Mr. Mayo's letter appears to be
badly out of line. However, the NRO Comptroller is in the best
position to comment on this issue.

3. Attached to Mr. Mayo's letter is a graphical display
entitled "Improved Photographic Resolution". For search satellites
this display is inaccurate in several regards. First, in 1967 with
the introduction of the J-3 version of the CORONA system, the

NRO review(s) completed.



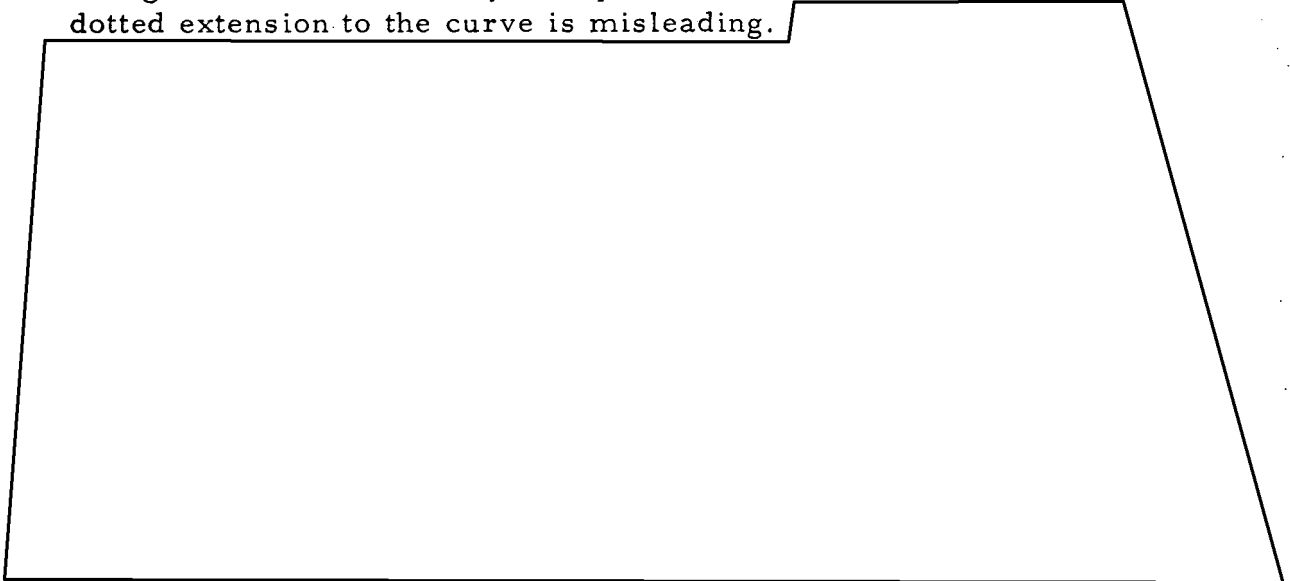
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SUBJECT: Comments on Mr. Robert Mayo's Letter to Mr. Helms
dated 22 March 1969, [REDACTED]

search resolution improved from something like ten feet to seven feet, not six feet as intended. There will be no further important changes in the CORONA system performance. Therefore, the dotted extension to the curve is misleading.



5. There is also a statement in Mr. Mayo's letter which implies that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the three inch framing camera now being flown with CORONA is entirely adequate. Assuming that the Department of Defense requirements for 1:50,000 scale maps is valid, Mr. Mayo's conclusions about the capabilities of the three inch framing camera are incorrect. There is no way that adequate imagery can be collected to meet this DOD requirement without developing and flying a new framing camera system.

SIGNED

JOHN J. CROWLEY
Director of Special Projects
DD/S&T

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